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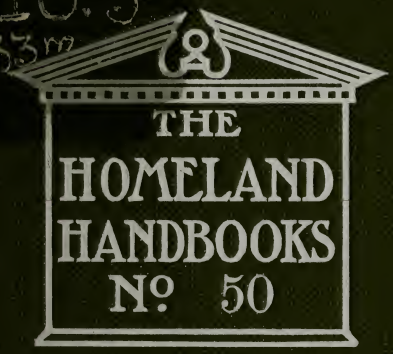

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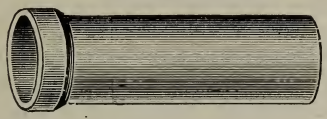
DRAIN  PIPES,

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EDITORIAL NOTE.

WITH a view of making future Editions of this Handbook as accurate and comprehensive as possible, suggestions for its improvement are cordially invited. If sent to The EDITOR, The Homeland Association, Association House, 22, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C., they will be gratefully acknowledged.

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The Publisher's Address to the Reader.

THIS little volume forms one of the Homeland Handbooks, a series founded in 1897, with a view of providing adequate information respecting localities and districts in Great Britain. They are issued at popular prices, and contain everything likely to interest the intelligent visitor regarding the History, Traditions, Worthies, and Antiquities of the neighbourhoods with which they deal.

In each case the books are written by a qualified Author, with special local knowledge.

Other Volumes in the Series likely to interest the reader of this book are as follows:—

	CLOTH.	PAPER.
The City of St. Alban, Its Abbey and its Surroundings - - -	2/6	1/0
Dunstable and its Surroundings - -	2/0	1/0

A full list will be found on Pages xv.—xvi. of the volume.

The Homeland Association for the Encouragement of Touring in Great Britain, Association House, 22, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C.

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

In presenting the following pages to the public notice, the Author desires to express the hope that they may, in the reading, provide inhabitants with as much interest, and visitors with as much assistance, as they have afforded him gratification in the writing.

At the same time, the Author is conscious that what follows does but scanty justice to the varied and attractive features of that delightful district of which Watford forms the flourishing centre.

But should the succeeding chapters serve to revive the flagging interest of some resident, in whom familiarity has bred some measure of indifference, if not contempt, or succeed in exciting in the bosom of some stranger a desire to explore the region with which they deal, they will not have been written in vain.

The Author would acknowledge his indebtedness to the splendid histories of the County of Hertford compiled by Robert Clutterbuck, and John Edwin Cussans; and would at the same time express his obligation to Mr. A. Whitford Anderson, A.R.I.B.A., for his revision of the MS., and for much valuable information.

W. M.

'DON'T'S' FOR PICNIC PARTIES.

THE Council of the Selborne Society urgently requests visitors to treat the country they are visiting with the reverence due to natural beauty.

DON'T gather such quantities of wild flowers and ferns that, before the day is over, you are obliged to throw them away on the roadside. By such gathering you injure the flora of the district, and you take away pleasures from many people who like to see flowers and ferns growing in their native haunts.

DON'T disturb the birds in their breeding season.

DON'T litter the places visited with waste papers or torn letters.

DON'T leave empty bottles and other débris of your picnic to vulgarise the spots, the scenery of which you have been enjoying.

WATFORD
AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

CHAPTER I.

THE JOURNEY.

"Go call a coach, and let a coach be called."
Carey.

For the Visitor.

TO speak first of railway facilities and fares will seem a prosaic and utilitarian fashion in which to approach the consideration of so interesting and charmingly situated a town as Watford; and though it be admittedly essential to consider the means—or rather the "ways and means"—before the end, it is in such cases as this that one is prone to look back with regret to the "good old times" when the adventurous traveller, either as an "inside" or an "outside," was whirled into Watford High Street behind a spirited team of greys or bays, to the ex-hilarating accompaniment of clattering hoofs and flourishing horn.

But, the coaching days being departed, and the Twentieth Century having arrived, we, desiring to visit Watford, must needs content ourselves with the faster, safer, and more capacious "coaches" of the London and North-Western Railway, upon which important Company's main line Watford Junction is situated.

Consequently, we wend our way to Euston Station, where, at brief intervals, from early morn until the witching hour of night, express trains start with their

loads of passengers for Watford—and for the North. The fares are as follows:—Single, 2s. 6d., 1s. 8d., and 1s. 3d.; Return, available for six months, 4s., 2s. 9d., and 2s., 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class respectively.

These preliminaries over, we find ourselves being carried swiftly out of London, through the pleasant north-west Middlesex country, by Wembley, Harrow, and Pinner, into Hertfordshire; and within, or a little beyond, the half-hour, we are set down at Watford Junction.

We were not restricted to Euston as the point of departure, however, for there is also a good service of trains from Broad Street Station, albeit both the journey and the fares are rather longer and higher from the latter terminus—the time occupied being about an hour, and the fares, seven-day-return-tickets, 4s. 3d. first, 3s. second, and 2s. 3d. third, single journey tickets being 2s. 8d. first, 1s. 9d. second, and 1s. 4d. third.

For motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and such as have horses to ride and drive, there are many ways of reaching Watford from London by road. The main route is the Edgware Road, which, as far as Elstree, was the Watling Street of the Romans. A little north of the town of Edgware a turning on the left takes us, through Stanmore and Bushey, to Watford.

Another route, and one that is less painfully direct, is the road which, starting at Paddington, passes through Kensal Green, Willesden, Harrow, and Pinner, where the roads become somewhat intricate. But if we bend our hoofs, wheels, or steps determinedly towards Potter Street, and bear to the right at the Hamper Mills, we shall arrive without further difficulty at the "Bushey" end of Watford High Street.

For the Resident.

As it is more than likely that a visit to Watford will induce many a stranger to become a permanent resident, some further railway information will not be out of place.

Few towns of equal distance from London enjoy such a frequent and fast service of trains as does Watford. About one hundred trains call at the Junction Station in the course of an average week day. The two London termini, Euston and Broad Street, make Watford a convenient place of residence, both for the city man and such as pursue their daily occupations in the West End. The annual season-ticket rates are as follows :—

Between Euston and Watford Junction : First Class, £18 ; 2nd Class, £14 ; 3rd Class, £11 4s.

Between Broad Street and Watford Junction : 1st Class, £20 ; 2nd Class, £16 ; 3rd Class, £12 14s.

Between Willesden and Watford Junction : 1st Class, £14 10s. 2nd Class, £11 ; 3rd Class, £8 16s.

Photograph] [William Coles.

Watford Station
With the new Motor Bus to Croxley.

Nine, six, three, and one month season-tickets are also obtainable in each case at equally moderate rates; and cheap season-tickets are issued to students, apprentices, and school children under 18 years of age, on the production of a certificate duly signed by the employer or schoolmaster, as the case may be.

And now, having arrived—whether by rail, wheel, or foot—either as visitor or resident, we may reasonably postpone our explorations for a brief while, to learn what are the general features, and something of the history, of the district of which Watford forms the centre.

We might mention here that a motor omnibus service has been recently started by the L. & N. W. Railway between Watford Station and Croxley, passing the Golf Links. The omnibuses run at intervals of about an hour throughout the day.

CHAPTER II.

THE DISTRICT SURVEYED.

"God made the country, and man made the town."
Cowper.

LET us, then, in imagination, soar high enough above the spire of Watford Church to bring within our ken a circle of country say thirty miles in circumference. Here, safe-poised on the wings of thought, we will gaze around and beneath. The area spread below presents a delightful and various picture ; but before our eyes are ravished quite by the superficial charms of this pleasant region, we will look a little deeper, and see upon what foundation Nature and Art have built so fairly and so well.

We do not, as a rule, pay due reverence to the deep and solemn mysteries of Geology. When we look with admiration on some lovely *pastoral* scene, we are content to drink in the sweet odours, pleasant sights, and melodious sounds, nor care to give so much as a fleeting thought to the awful catastrophes, whelming cataclysms, and the unnumbered ages of unceasing labour, by means of which Nature has wrought the present picture that delights us. Perhaps it is because savants have saddled the science with so many words of fearsome sound? Perhaps it is because in the majority of topographical guides geological information is relegated to an obscure chapter far away at the end of the volume? Yet, 'tis true, 'tis pity ; and pity 'tis, 'tis true ; for with the merest elementary knowledge of the science, such as the simplest text-book can supply, we look with increased interest on the scenes through which we

stray, and are enabled to find the treasures of romance deep below every soil.

The actual surface of the country which we are now surveying is formed chiefly of gravel, clays, sand, and alluvial loams ; and it will be sufficient for our present purpose to note that the lowest *Eocene* deposits (the oldest formations in which fossils of existing plants are found) are the *Reading beds*, which, at an average thickness of 25 feet, rest immediately upon the chalk which may be said to form the foundation—not to go too deep—of pretty well the whole county of Hertfordshire. These *Reading beds* come sufficiently near the surface to be traceable at the kilns on Watford Heath and at Bushey, from whence they may be detected as far as Harefield Park.

It is from this deposit, formed from the clay, sand, and pebbles of pre-historic estuaries, from which come certain conglomerate masses of flint pebbles known popularly as *Herts plum-pudding stone*, a material from which the Romans, as well as others, often made their querns, or hand-mills for grinding grain, an eloquent testimonial to its peculiar hardness.

Upon the *Reading beds* rests the *London clay*, rich in fossilized remains of *tropical* fruits, seeds, and other vegetable debris carried down by the flow of prehistoric rivers and deposited in the mud at their mouths, which mud is *London clay*. This deposit extends S.W. from Watford until it leaves the County of Hertfordshire.

Such, briefly, is the subterraneous conformation of the area we are now surveying. From our coign of vantage we will now view more particularly the diversified surface, which, as we have seen, is made up principally of gravel, clay, sand, and alluvial loams.

Two outstanding features immediately attract our notice, the innumerable woods and coppices that beautify and variegate the district, and the many streams that meander across its face. Of the woods, none may be called great ; but we may safely say that all, and more especially those in the Rickmansworth neighbourhood, are lovely. Between them, during the days of Spring and Summer, lie swelling

corn-fields—in Winter rich brown plough—intersected by narrow, winding, and flowery lanes, lanes that the artist and the botanist alike delight in. Gigantic oaks and elms dot the landscape no matter where we turn, trees of majestic growth, striking in their massive symmetry; while, winding their tortuous courses through the gently undulating land, behold the streams: the Colne which—coming from the north-east, having risen from its source at Sleapes Hyde—flows with many a twist and turn to Watford, and

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

Upper High Street, Watford.

thence, with an equally erratic course through Rickmansworth to the Thames; the Gade, which comes down from Little Gaddesden, flowing under the walls of Hemel Hempstead Church, through King's Langley and Cassiobury Park, to join the Colne at Rickmansworth; the Chess, whose vale is perhaps the loveliest of them all, which enters our district from Buckinghamshire at Sarratt Mill, and, rippling past Loudwater, mingles its waters with those of the Gade at Rick-

mansworth; and, finally, the Vir, which joins the Colne a little east of Bricket Wood Common. With the Gade, sometimes a little apart, but more often following a common course, flows the Grand Junction Canal, with its picturesque locks and gaily decorated barges.

Set prettily amid these varied scenes of water, field, and wood, appear the many villages and hamlets, most of which we hope to visit and describe; but meanwhile, having obtained—it is to be hoped—a worthy impression of the charming country that lies spread around, we will descend from our aerial height; and when we have briefly reviewed the history of the district in general, will devote a chapter to the story of Watford.

CHAPTER III.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF WATFORD AND THE DISTRICT.

"I love everything that's old."
Goldsmith.

ROUND about Watford have been found many traces of the prehistoric inhabitants of England; and, judging from a discovery recorded by Sir J. Prestwich in 1858, some of those early residents of the district would to-day be considered far from desirable neighbours. The find in question was that of a molar and a tusk of an elephant—probably a mammoth—at Bricket Wood, from which we may reasonably conclude that where to-day the ubiquitous motor car utters its harmless *toot*, of old the welkin rang with the wild trumpetings of untamed *probisciidea*.

Relics of the *Palæolithic* period, consisting of flint implements, have been unearthed from time to time in the valley of the River Gade, as well as at Abbots Langley, where flint axe-heads have been discovered.

But let us come to times less remote, times less oppressive by reason of their scarce conceivable antiquity—let us come to what may be called the dawn of British history, the stirring days of Cassivelaunus and Caractacus, for both those great, heroic names are closely associated with this district.

It was from these vales, the seat of the tribe of the *Cassii*, that the British chief, Cassivelaunus, drew the flower of his forces when he marched, in B.C. 55, to oppose the landing of Julius Caesar. It was through these vales that the same brave army, impotent to withstand the might of all-conquering Rome, fled

defeated to their capital (afterwards the *Verulamium* of the Romans) with the victorious legionaries treading close upon their heels ; and, a century later, they were the scene of part of the despairing struggle carried on against the Romans by Caractacus.

The Roman occupation has left its memorials in the district until this day. We will not concern ourselves with *Verulamium*—which is a mile or so beyond the northern border of the area to which we shall confine our attention, and is dealt with at some length in the St. Albans Handbook of this Series—for Roman relics are close enough at hand.

At Elstree we may tread the Watling Street of Agricola's day ; at Sarratt have been found the remains of a Roman cemetery ; Roman villas have disclosed their enduring foundations at Abbots Langley ; and gold and silver coins bearing the impress of the emperors of Rome have been discovered at Caldecote.

Perhaps the most stirring moments that the district has known since the final and fruitless struggle of the British against the Roman arms, were the 22nd May, 1455, the date of the first battle of St. Albans, and the 17th February, 1461, the day upon which the second action of that name was fought. In the first encounter, which was a collision between the Royalists and the armies of the White Rose, Henry VI. was wounded and made prisoner ; in the second engagement the Earl of Warwick was defeated by Queen Margaret. Although these combats took place a couple of miles or so outside the area under review, without doubt they stirred the district to its core and infected the inhabitants with consternation and alarm.

The subsequent history of the district immediately surrounding Watford centres in the various villages and hamlets, and in the several ancestral mansions that stand within the area, most of which we hope to visit in their turn.

But we will first make ourselves acquainted with the story of the town of Watford.

Two theories exist as to the origin of the name Watford. Some authorities hold that it is derived from *Wet-ford*, a reference to the nature of the crossing-place before a bridge was thrown over the Colne. Others claim that the name is partly derived rom that of the old Roman road, *Wat*ling Street, and partly from the ford through the river.

Watford finds no mention in Domesday, for, at the time of the survey it constituted a part of the Manor of Cassio, of which the Abbots of St. Albans were lords. At the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, Watford became Crown property, and it so remained until 1609, when the Manor, with all its rights, tolls, and perquisites, was granted by James I. to Thomas Marbury and Richard Cartwright in trust for Sir Thomas Egerton, Baron of Ellesmere, Lord High Chancellor of England, afterwards created Viscount Brackley.

Eventually the Manor came to Francis Egerton, third Duke of Bridgewater, who has been called "the Father of British Inland Navigation," for the reason that the navigable canal which he projected, and which was constructed by the famous engineer, Brindley, to facilitate the transport of the coal found on his estates, was the first great undertaking of the kind (excepting the Sankey Canal), brought to a successful completion in Great Britain.

The Duke of Bridgewater sold the Manor of Watford in 1767 to Sir Lawrence Dundas, of Moor Park, who, on the 27th of May in the same year, conveyed it to the Right Hon. William-Anne-Holles Capell, 4th Earl of Essex and lord of the manor of Cassio, in which family it has since remained.

Watford proper is not associated with many historical events of great importance ; but its name is connected with two incidents which it will be interesting to recall. The first of these happened in 1377, when the inhabitants of Watford took an active part in a rising against the Lord Abbot of St. Albans, a local disturbance that was contemporary with, and a reflection of, the Wat Tyler rebellion. The Abbot's tenants at that time

groaned under certain oppressive tolls and taxes, of which the men of Watford and of Tring, stirred by reports of Wat Tyler's successes, determined to rid themselves. The Watford men thereupon assembled in the market place and marched to St. Albans. There they crowded tumultuously into the venerable Abbey, and demanded the instant remission of what they considered to be unjust imposts. The Abbot, perforce, agreed; and the mob, flushed with success, forced their way into the Abbey "parlor," where they tore up from the floor certain mill-stones which their monkish oppressors had placed there as symbols of the permanent submission of the tenants of the Abbey lands to their priestly tyranny.

The second incident of importance occurred in connection with the first battle of St. Albans in May, 1455, when Henry VI., upon hearing of the hostile approach towards London of the Duke of York and the famous Earl of Warwick—known as the Kingmaker—assembled his forces and advanced towards St. Albans, stopping for a while at Watford on the way. The incident is related by Holinshed in the following words:

"The King informed hereof, assembled lykewise a great host, and meaning to meet with the Duke rather in the north parts than about London, where it was thought he had too many friends, with great speede and small lucke, being accompanied with the Dukes of Somerset and Buckingham, the Erles of Pembroke, Stafford, Northumberland, Devonshire, Dorset, and Wiltshire, the Lords Clifford, Sudley, Berneis, Roos, and others, beeing in all about two thousande men of warre, departed from Westmynster the twentieth, or, as some have, the one and twentieth of May, and lay the first night at Watford."

Watford was granted the privilege of a market, to be held every Tuesday, by Henry I.; while Edward IV. granted the Abbots of St. Albans the right of holding a fair here on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday immediately following Trinity Sunday, and on the 29th and 30th of August.

In 1688-9 Watford again saw something of the

"pomp," if not the "circumstance" of war, when John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, the hero of Killiecrankie, celebrated by the Highland poet as "Bonnie Dundee," in the course of his "going up and down" the country with and after poor, weak James II., rested for a brief while on the outskirts of the town, where he temporarily fortified himself, a very necessary precaution, seeing that the sum of £20,000 was the price placed upon his head.

One of the quaint old May Day celebrations is still more or less observed at Watford and in the neighbourhood, a custom so pretty that it is a matter for regret that it is gradually falling into decline. The streets are paraded by parties of children, fancifully dressed; the little processions being headed by two children who hold a stick between them, from which swings a bunch of wild flowers (hawthorn if a warm April has burst the buds of May) tied with bright ribbon. As they march they sing a quaint ditty, varying greatly as to words, but in sense something like the following:

Here begins the merry month of May,
  The bright time of the year;
When Christ our Saviour died for us,
  He lovèd us so dear.

We have been walking all the night,
  And the best part of this day;
And now returning back again
  We bring you a branch of May.

A branch of May we have brought you,
  And at your door it stands;
It is but a sprout, but its well budded out,
  In the shape of our Lord's hands.

My song is done and I must be gone,
  No longer can I stay;
God bless you all, both great and small,
  And send you a joyful May.

Until the construction of the railway, Watford was little more than a large village; for we read that as

recently as 1821 it possessed but 940 houses and 4,713 inhabitants.

Bearing this fact in mind we shall be the more surprised when we come to review the extent of modern Watford, and examine some of its principal institutions and public buildings, which we propose to do in the course of the chapter which follows.

CHAPTER IV.

DESCRIBES WATFORD OF TO-DAY.

THE Watford of to-day is a large and prosperous town, bearing, on the whole, a modern aspect. It is principally residential in character, although some important industries are carried on, including brewing, ironfounding, brick-making, printing, and the manufacture of cocoa. The practice of neither of these trades mitigates against the comfort of inhabitants, however, but provides employment for a large section of the community.

In old topographical works we read that "Watford is an ancient market town, situated on a ridge of gravel overlooking the Colne," and that it "consists chiefly of one spacious street." An ancient market town Watford certainly remains; but the day when it could truthfully be said to "consist chiefly of one spacious street" is now remembered by few: for the coming of the railway opened up this delightful corner of Hertfordshire, and enabled numberless families, whose heads pursued their daily occupations in the Metropolis, to enjoy the advantages of rural residence. That, undoubtedly, has been one, if not the chief, of the several factors in the growth of Watford.

The population of the parish of Watford in 1901 was 34,678, to which the Urban District contributed 29,023. This large community is the centre of the Parliamentary division of Watford, or West Hertfordshire, of which the present (1906) representative in the House of Commons is Nathaniel Micklem, Esq., K.C.

Local affairs are administered by the Watford Urban, and Watford Rural, District Councils, the

former of which has under its control the Water Supply, the Sanitation, and the Electric Lighting of the district. The Water Supply is excellent; while the drainage of Watford promises shortly to be one of the most efficient systems extant. Already works have been carried out at a cost of close upon £20,000, and two additional extensions of the scheme, which was designed throughout jointly by Mr. D. Waterhouse, the Urban Council's engineer, and Mr. Ernest Lailey, surveyor to the Watford Rural District Council, have recently been commenced, and will involve an outlay of a further £7,000.

Having assimilated these general facts, we will now perambulate the town, and examine its various places and objects of interest. We can do no better than commence our walk at Watford Junction Station. Leaving the spacious approach, which is flanked by the Clarendon and Malden Hotels, by Clarendon Road, a thoroughfare lined principally by private dwelling houses, we presently notice on our right-hand side and at the corner of St. John's Road, the Congregational Church. By turning to the left at this point we should shortly reach the extensive buildings and grounds of the London Orphan Asylum. One pleasing feature about this splendid institution is the L.O.A. Club, an association of ex-scholars established some thirty years ago, for the purpose of providing social intercourse between themselves, and of rendering assistance to those in need of help.

Continuing our way along Clarendon Road, we pass, on the left-hand side, St. Stephen's (Church of Scotland), and, a little further along, on the same side, Beechen Grove Baptist Chapel, one of the finest Nonconformist Chapels in the country. It was built in 1878, after an Italian design. Just beyond Beechen Grove Chapel we observe the Clarendon Hall, the largest hall in the town, and much used for dramatic performances, concerts, and similar functions. Arrived now at the High Street, we notice at the corner the Conservative Club, of which the President is the Marquess of Salisbury, and the trustees Lord

Aldenham, Mr. J. S. Gilliat, and the Hon. A. Holland-Hibbert.

Turning south, a few steps brings us to Watford Market Place. On the one side stands the Essex Arms Hotel, with its fine old portico, and by its side the entrance to the Corn Exchange, which was built in 1855 on the site of part of the old Essex Arms Hotel. An ancient timber Market House formerly stood alone at the south end of the Market Place. The Corn Exchange is largely used for entertainments, travelling theatrical companies' performances, concerts, &c.

Opposite, at the corner of Market Street, we observe the Rose and Crown Hotel, another ancient hostelry, the exterior of which has been modernized.

Passing over the cobbles of the Market Place, which on Saturdays, and more especially on Tuesdays, presents a very animated appearance, being crowded with stalls and thronged with foot passengers, we next notice on the right-hand side the parish church, to which we must devote some attention.

The ancient parish church of St. Mary stands in a small churchyard on the south-side of Watford High Street. It is a large structure of the Perpendicular period, with a lofty west tower and spire. Although principally of 15th century date—sufficiently so, indeed, to give it the general character of a Perpendicular building—the Church contains much 13th century work, notably the south nave arcade (excepting every second pier, which was renewed in the 15th century), parts of the chancel arch, and the piscina ; while stones of a Norman church are preserved in the vestry. In 1870-71 the edifice was thoroughly restored, under the able direction of Mr. Christopher, of Watford. The interior is spacious, and consists of nave, with broad aisles, St. Katharine's Chapel on the north, the Essex Chapel on the south, and a fine chancel. The monuments are numerous and interesting, the most important being those in the Essex Chapel, *to view which it is necessary to obtain special permission.* This Chapel, which was from the first intended solely for monu-

mental purposes, was built at the expense of Bridget, Countess of Bedford, in 1595. Upon entering, we are impressed by the solemn grandeur of the scene. Pompous tombs with their quaint effigies stand marshalled along the walls and occupy the floor, marking the resting places and extolling the virtues of many a knight and high-born lady. Taking the tombs in the order of their dates, we turn first to that of the founder of the Chapel, Lady Bridget, Countess Dowager of Bedford, who died in the year 1600. It is an altar tomb of vari-coloured marbles, supporting a recumbent effigy of the Countess in her robes and coronet, on either side of whom lies stretched the figure of a knight in full armour. This lady, who, it is recorded, died "in great favour with her Prince, and generally respected one of the nobles matrons of England, for her wisdom and judgment," was married three times, her first husband being Sir Richard Morrison; her second, Edward Manners, Earl of Rutland; and her third, Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford.

Leaving the resting place of Lady Bridget, we see beyond another altar tomb, adorned with six columns of Tuscan marble, and supporting a recumbent effigy of the Right Hon. Lady Elizabeth Russell, who died in 1611, wife of Sir William Russell, Lord Russell of Thornhaugh. Against the north wall of the Chapel stands a splendid monument to Sir Charles Morrison the younger. This was executed by the sculptor, Nicholas Stone, and cost £400—no inconsiderable sum in the 17th century. The monument consists of an effigy of Sir Charles, leaning on his right elbow, and with his hand resting on a skull; below is the effigy of Lady Morrison, his wife, at his feet kneel effigies of his two sons, and at his head, that of his daughter.

Close by, on the same wall, is a monument to Lady Katherine Rotherham, who died in 1625, "late wife to Sir John Rotherham, first espoused to Sir John Hampson, Knt., and Alderman of London." It consists of an effigy of the lady in a short cloak and band,

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

St. Mary's Parish Church, Watford.

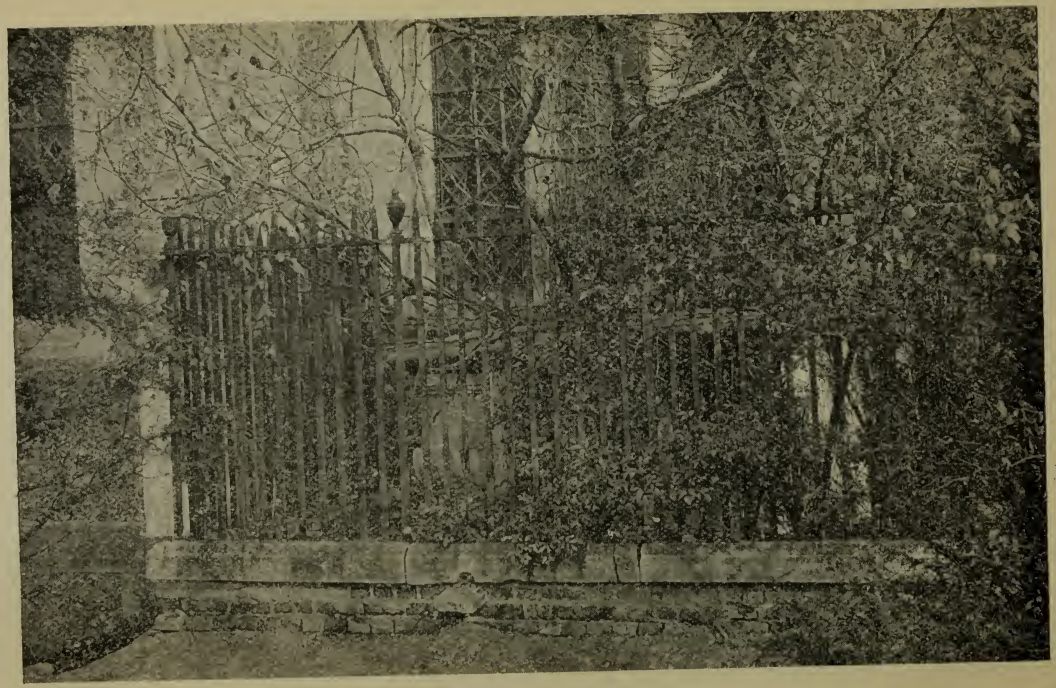
kneeling on a cushion, and shaded by a canopy supported by four marble columns.

On the south wall of the Chapel is the fine architectural monument to Sir Charles Morrison the elder, who died in 1619. This monument also was executed by Nicholas Stone, for which, according to Horace Walpole's *Anecdotes*, he received £260, "and four pieces given me for drink." The monument is elaborate, and comprises the semi-recumbent effigy of Sir Charles, over which is extended a canopy borne on lofty Corinthian columns. The enrichments include angels with trumpets, and shields of arms; while outside the tomb, kneeling on pedestals at the knight's head and feet, are life size effigies of his son and daughter (Bridget, Countess of Sussex) respectively.

At the west end of the Chapel is a noticeable square brass, upon which are graven effigies, in cloaks, of Henry Dickson, George Miller, and Anthony Cooper, who, we read, were "late servants to Sir Charles Morryson, his wife, and Sir Charles Morryson, Knt. and Bart., their son, by the space of 40 years, in memory of them the said Dorothy Lady Morryson hath vouchsafed this stone and inscription over their heads." Two of the dates are discernible, those of the death of Henry Dickson, 1610, and George Miller, 1613.

Glancing at the tablets to Admiral John Forbes (1796), and to Lady Mary Forbes (1782), we leave the Essex Chapel and make our way to the Katherine Chapel on the north side of the Church. Here we find two ancient brasses in a good state of preservation; one, the largest, dated 1415, to Hugo de Holes, *quondam justiciarius;* and the other, dated 1416, to his wife Margaretta.

There are numerous other little less interesting monuments in the Church, more, indeed, than space will permit of mention; therefore having viewed the most important, we pass into the churchyard, where lies buried Robert Clutterbuck, the revered author of the *History and Antiquities of the County of Hertford*, who died in 1831. In the southern part of the churchyard will be noticed a tomb out of which a fig



Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

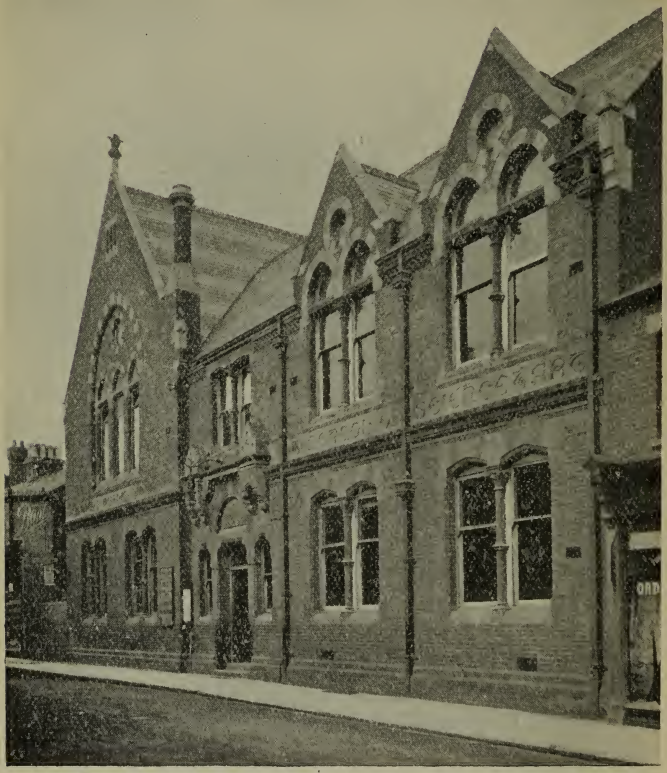
The "Fig Tree Tomb," Watford Churchyard.

tree is growing ; a phenomenon accounted for variously in legends, mostly uncomplimentary to the dead beneath.

Returning to the High Street, we continue our walk, noticing on our left the offices of the *Watford Observer*, and arriving almost immediately at the corner of Queen's Road, down which we turn. A few steps brings us to a noticeable brick building in the Gothic style, which stands on the right-hand side of the way. This is the Watford Public Library and College of Science, Art, Music, and Literature. The building was erected in 1873-4, at a cost of £3,400, and was greatly enlarged during the year 1901, in order to provide for a properly equipped Art School, laboratories for science, and rooms for technical work, at an additional cost of £8,500 ; and since the last mentioned date the institution has filled an increasingly important position in the intellectual life of Watford. It is divided into two sections—the Library, and the Educational Department. The former comprises the Lending and Reference Libraries and the Public Reading Rooms. In 1887 the Lending Library was reorganised and opened free of charge to all ratepayers and residents in the Urban District, and at present contains a stock of 9,400 volumes. The Reference Library was opened in 1892, and contains 5,650 volumes. The foregoing are managed by a General or Library Committee. The Educational Department, of which the Earl of Clarendon is President, is controlled by the Higher Education Sub-Committee, appointed by the County Council on the joint nomination of the County Council and Urban Council, under the Education Act of 1902.

The School of Science, Art, and Literature provides, at very moderate fees, instruction in drawing, painting, modelling, building, commercial, and numerous other subjects, by highly qualified masters. Art students are encouraged by the possibility of winning gold, silver, and bronze medals, book prizes, free studentships, local scholarships to the value of £20, Royal Exhibitions and National Scholarships of the

annual value of £50 and upwards, which are offered by the Board of Education. The Board also offer medals and prizes in competition for the students of



Photograph] [William Coles.

Watford Public Library & School of Science.

the Building Construction Course; and similar encouragement is extended to students of the Commercial Course by the Society of Arts.

During the autumn and winter seasons, courses of University Extension Lectures are delivered at the Public Library by highly qualified lecturers, for which the already moderate fees are greatly reduced for artizans and the like, who may purchase 12s. 6d. course tickets for 3s. 6d.

The courteous Director, Secretary, and Librarian of this centre of "light and leading" is Mr. John Woolman, who is always pleased to afford any information respecting the institution.

Leaving the Public Library we continue along Queen's Road, and in a few minutes find ourselves close to the General Post Office, the opposite corner to which being occupied by the Wesleyan Church. We may now turn to the right down Derby Road, in which we find a Baptist Tabernacle, and Watford Grammar Schools for boys and girls. The governors of these excellent schools include the Earl of Clarendon and the Vicar of Watford.

We regain the High Street by way of Carey Place, and continuing south, pass over the railway to Rickmansworth at High Street Station. The road now dips until the bridge across the Colne is reached, when it rises somewhat steeply, and we are in New Bushey, a residential suburb of Watford, with a railway station on the North Western main line to London. It consists almost entirely of streets of pleasant dwelling houses, with St. Matthew's Church, a Wesleyan Church, Wesleyan and Baptist Chapels, and a school. We will not continue along the main road towards Bushey proper, with its interesting Church, as that will enter into one of our excursions.

Therefore, we retrace our steps, and may, if we please, visit the several Recreation Grounds, of which there are four, situated in different parts of the town. One is close to the High Street, down a narrow thoroughfare known as Watford Fields Road, another is a little east of the Grammar Schools, a third is situated in Leavesden Road, in the Callow Land district, and the last adjoins Vicarage Road, in which is also situated the District Hospital, of which the President

is the Earl of Clarendon. Close to the second recreation ground mentioned—that a little east of the Grammar Schools—is an excellent open-air bathing place on the River Colne. It is situated under the bridge which carries the L. & N. W. Railway main line. Dressing boxes have been erected by the Urban District Council, and every precaution is taken to safeguard the bathers.

The Recreation Grounds visited—all of which are fairly extensive—it is worth while to examine St. Andrew's Church, a modern edifice in the Early English style of architecture. It is situated off St. Albans Road, a little north of the Junction Station, and the principal object of interest is the fine stained glass window in the south aisle.

Returning once more to the High Street by way of St. Albans Road, we arrive at the four cross roads, in the centre of which stands a drinking fountain. The road to the north is known for a quarter of a mile or so as Cashio Hamlet, and quaint indeed are some of the cottages which flank it on the left. The thoroughfare which branches to the left at the fountain is the Rickmansworth Road, a couple of furlongs down which, on the right-hand side, are the gates of Cassiobury Park. We will, however, postpone our visit to this delightful domain until a subsequent chapter, and instead turn south, in order to pass through a short length of the High Street which we have not yet traversed. On the right, at the corner, we notice "The Elms," an ancient house re-built, but distinguished by some very fine old trees in front; on the left, a little further on, a picturesque pond, beyond which stands "The Platts," a fine specimen of the brick residences of the 17th century; and presently, near the corner of Upton Road, we observe the offices of the Urban District Council.

We have now visited the principal places of interest in Watford, and will devote the remainder of this chapter to a consideration of the many advantages that the district possesses for the resident. In the first place Watford is unquestionably healthy, thanks to

Photograph] [F. Downer & Sons.

The Pond, High Street, Watford.

the purity of the water, the excellence of the sanitation, its rural environment, and its immunity from the poisonous gases and noxious vapours which infect the atmospheres of purely manufacturing towns. In the second place Watford enjoys an excellent service of trains to and from the Metropolis. And, finally, there is no lack of social and intellectual amusements and interests to enliven the long evenings of autumn and winter, nor any paucity of outdoor recreations during the more cheerful seasons of the year. All the principal divisions of Christian belief have places of worship within the Urban area; three of the chief banking companies, the London and County, Lloyd's, and the London and South Western have branch offices in the High Street; the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, with headquarters at the Public Library, and the Watford District Hospital, help to preserve the physical well-being of inhabitants; and innumerable societies, including three lodges of the Freemasons, encourage that spirit of brotherhood that is so conducive to the prosperity of any large community. Political clubs and various trades protection associations fill no unimportant part in the social and commercial life of the district; and various educational and recreative societies, such as the Watford Photographic Union, the Watford Camera Club, the Watford Chess Club, and the Watford and District Cage Bird Society, provide healthy and intellectual relaxation.

Such, briefly, is the physical aspect and the social condition of Modern Watford, which, from a village with a *Wet-ford*, has grown until it has become the largest and most prosperous town in the County of Hertfordshire.

From this point we will devote our attention to the beauties and interests of the surrounding country.

Photograph] [William Coles.

The Platts, an Old Time House in High Street, Watford.

CHAPTER V.

A WALK TO THE LANGLEYS.

WE take the Hemel Hempstead Road, which is the north-westerly continuation of Watford High Street and begins at the fountain where the Rickmansworth and St. Albans Roads meet, and a three mile walk through charmingly varied scenery brings us in sight of Langleybury and Hunton Bridge, two villages so situated that it is difficult to distinguish their mutual limitations.

These pretty villages are to the east of the high road, and close to the River Gade, which we must cross to see the picturesque cottages or to visit the excellent inn at Hunton Bridge. We are now a mile and a quarter from the nearest railway station, King's Langley, and "far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife." Here indeed is a spot where one might rest and dream the years away, watching the quaint barges as they float by where the river and the canal flow in a common channel.

Re-crossing the river, we notice, at the north-west corner of the cross roads, Langleybury Church, an imposing edifice, constructed of squared flint with Bath stone dressings, in the Decorated style. Dedicated to St. Paul, the Church is modern, having been built in 1864; but we find something of interest in the fine lych gate, and, close to the south porch, the large cross of Sicilian marble—by Romanelli, the Florentine sculptor—erected in memory of W. J. Lloyd, through whose munificence the Church was built, and whose remains rest in the mortuary chapel on the south-east side of the edifice.

The perhaps prettiest walk in the district is now within reach: to Buck's Hill through Westwood. But

as it has no attraction beside the uncommon beauty of the scenery passed through, and the quiet charm of the pretty little hamlet when we arrive, we will merely hint that the visitor should make a note of this walk, and not leave the neighbourhood of Watford until he has proved that it is good. Meanwhile, we will regain the high road and jog along towards King's Langley.

From Langleybury Church the road is as straight as a die. About a quarter of a mile on, after leaving on the left the private road to King's Langley Lodge, we notice on the right a public footpath which leads to the railway station. We, however, continue forward, and another quarter of a mile or so brings us in sight of King's Langley Church, which stands at the south entrance to the village. We are now treading historic ground ; and before examining the many objects of interest which the Church contains, will recall some of the more important names and incidents, and visit the ruins, that have served to make King's Langley not a little famous.

The first turning on the left past the Church brings us to what remain of the ruins of Langley Palace, which, according to some authorities, was built by Henry III., and according to others, by some person or persons unknown.

Be that as it may, there remain plenty of evidence and numerous records of the many great personages who have dwelt at different times within the old palace. For instance, we read of Edward I. staying here with his court for several weeks, to the great disgust of the inhabitants of the surrounding country ; for it is said that, while Longshanks did not hesitate to lay his hands on the provisions of his dutiful subjects, by some strange lapse of memory he forgot to pay for them. In 1299 Edward, with his second Queen, Margaret, again entertained noble company at Langley Palace ; but as there is no record of a renewal of the bitter lamentations of the inhabitants of the district, on this occasion, presumably, the lengthy monarch paid for whatsoever he appropriated.

In 1392 the unhappy Richard II., with his first Queen, Anne of Bohemia, and a great and brilliant company of prelates, earls, lords, knights, and ladies, held Christmas festivities at the Palace; and in the Palace garden, some while after, Richard's second Queen received the news of the deposition of the King, an incident from which the genius of Shakespeare constructed one of the most moving scenes of his tragedy, *King Richard the Second*, namely, the Queen's piteous conversation with the gardener, Act. III., Sc. IV.

In the Palace was born, in 1344, Edmund de Langley, fifth son of Edward III., Duke of York, Earl of Cambridge, Lord Tivedale, and founder of the White Rose faction. Edmund, in company with his brothers, the Black Prince and the Duke of Lancaster, earned much distinction in the French wars. Hardyng the Chronicler seems to have had a high admiration for the character of Edmund, and he tells us that

> "Whan all lordes went to counsels and parlement
> He wolde to huntes and also to haukynge,
> All gentilnes disporte that myrth appent
> He used aie and to the poore supportynge
> Wher ever he wase in any place bidynge
> Without suprise or any extorcion
> Of the poraile or any oppression."—(*Harl. MS. 661.*)

Hardyng also records Edmund's prowess on the field of battle:—

> "At which Battail Duke John of Gaunt indede
> And his brother Edmund then fought fell sore
> Were never twoo better knightes than thei indede
> That better fought upon a field afore."

Edmund managed to escape the violent end common to a violent age, and died at Langley Palace in 1402, in the fifty-eighth year of his age.

One of the most interesting memories attached to King's Langley—prior to 1383 called Chilternelangley—is that which associates it with Geoffrey Chaucer, who, in 1389, was appointed "Clerk of the Works at the Royale Palace of Chilternelangley"—as well as at the Palace of Westminster, St. George's Chapel

at Windsor, various royal manors and lodges, and the Mews at Charing Cross, all of which appointments he lost in 1391.

Near the Palace was founded, probably early in the 13th century, by one Roger Helle, a priory of Dominican monks. The Priory, which was enriched by Edward II. and several succeeding monarchs, has withstood wonderfully the wearing of the passing centuries, a portion of the ancient structure being still inhabited.

In 1315 the body of Piers Gaveston, who was executed on Blacklow Hill in 1312, was brought from Oxford and buried in the Priory Church. Consideration of the fact that the body, or the reputed body, of the murdered King Richard II., was also consigned to the grave for a while in the Priory Church, revives thoughts of a deeply interesting page of English history. After the death of Richard at Pomfret Castle, most probably at the instigation of Henry Bolingbroke, the latter vehemently disclaimed any participation in the untimely end of the King; and to confirm the country in the belief of his innocence he arranged a dramatic scene, by honourably exposing and interring a body supposed to be that of Richard. This corpse was conveyed from Pomfret to London, where it was treated with the most solemn respect, lying in state three days in St. Paul's.

Public opinion satisfied and suspicion disarmed, the remains were removed to the Priory Church at King's Langley, where they were obscurely interred by the Bishop of Chester and the Abbots of St. Albans and Waltham. "None of the nobles," says Holinshed, "nor anie of the commons—to accompt of—being present, *neither was there anie to bid them to dinner* after they had laid him in the ground, and finished the funeral service." Hardyng makes mention of the suspiciously quiet burial; he says that when the funeral ceremonies were performed at St. Paul's:—

"The Kyng and lordes clothes of golde there offered,
Some viii., some ix., upon his herse were profferde.

"At Westmynster then did they so the same ;
When trustynge he sholde there have buryed bene
In at that Mynster lyke a Prince of name,
In his owne tombe, together with the queen
Anne, that afore his fyrst wyfe had bene.
But then the King him fast to Langley sent,
There in 'The Freers' to be buryed secretement."

The corpse was suspected by some to be that of Richard's chaplain, the priest Maudelaine, who closely resembled his master, having, indeed, personated him in life, for which deception he had been hanged in London about this time, so that his body would have been available for Bolingbroke's purpose. But, king or priest, not long were his bones to repose in the quiet grave at Langley, for one of the earliest acts of Henry V. (Prince Hal) was to remove them—in 1414—to Westminster. According to Shakespeare this was done as an act of penitential restitution, that being the sentiment expressed by the young King in his speech immediately before the battle of Agincourt :—

"————Not to-day, O Lord,
O ! not to-day, think not upon the fault
My father made in compassing the crown !
I Richard's body have interrèd new,
And on it have bestow'd more contrite tears,
Than from it issued forcèd drops of blood."

Referring to Holinshed once again : "*Polychronicon* saith that after the body of the dead King was taken up out of the earth (at Langley), this new King (Henry V.) happily tendering the magnificence of a prince, and abhoring obscure buriall, caused the same to be conveyed to Westminster in a roiall seat or chaire of estate, covered all over with black velvet, and adorned with banners of divers arms round about."

Leaving the old Priory and the ruined Palace of ancient Kings, we retrace our steps to the village, and direct our attention to King's Langley Church, which is a perpendicular structure of flint and Totternhoe stone, and is dedicated to All Saints. The square west tower is embattled, and has an angle turret and a flint and stone porch. The Church has

Photograph] [Mr. A. W. Anderson

King's Langley Church (from the S.E.)

been partially restored ; and the interior contains many monuments and objects of great interest, amongst which should be specially noticed the tomb of Edmunde de Langley and his wife, Isabel of Castile, which was removed from the Priory Church to All Saints at the Dissolution of the religious houses. This monument which is an altar tomb of white marble about 3ft. 10in. high, the slab of which is part of the old altar table, and still bears three of the original five consecration crosses, formerly stood on the north side of the chancel, but now rests in the chapel at the end of the north aisle, where may be seen also a number of very old tiles. The quaint brass to John Carter, "Late of Giffres," who died in 1588, also excites interest. This gentleman, we are informed, was twice married, his first wife presenting him with four sons and five daughters, and the second, not to be outdone, with five sons and four daughters. The east window was filled with stained glass by Queen Victoria, as a memorial to her ancestor. Passing round the Church we admire the oaken pulpit, the exquisitely carved oaken screen, and the reredos, which is constructed partly of marble, and was erected in 1877. Before leaving the Church, it is well to look at an old printed bill which hangs framed just inside the north door. It is dated 1683, and refers to the once popular superstition that the Royal Touch could cure the disease called the King's Evil.

Having strolled about the large and interesting village, the chief industries of which are paper making and straw plaiting, we cross the Gade by one of the two bridges with which it is here spanned, and bearing south, passing the railway station and the Booksellers' Provident Retreat, which was erected in 1849 for the accommodation of aged members of the Booksellers' Provident Institution and their widows, take the left-hand road to Abbot's Langley, which is one and a half miles to the south-east.

By the time we have briefly reviewed the history of the ancient village we are approaching, and recalled its most famous native to mind, we shall have arrived.

The Manor of Langley was in existence in the time of Edward the Confessor, during whose reign its then lord and lady, Egelwine the Black and his wife Wincelfied, presented it to the Abbots of St. Albans. From that time forward the manor and the village have been called Abbot's Langley, to distinguish it from King's Langley.

At Breakspeare Farm, a mile or so beyond Abbot's Langley Church in the direction of Bedmond village, was born in 1100 A.D, Nicholas Breakspeare, the only Englishman who, so far, has filled the Papal throne. Nicholas Breakspeare was the son of a domestic in the Abbey of St. Albans, where he himself filled for some time a humble post, until he asked to be admitted to the Abbey as a monk, but the Abbot not only refused the embryo pope the permission he craved, but drove him in anger from the monastery. However, determined to enter the priesthood, if not in his own country, in some other, Breakspeare proceeded to Paris, where, obtaining the facilities denied him in his native land, he attained great proficiency in learning, especially in Theology. He was admitted a regular clerk in the Monastery of St. Rufus, in Provence, where, distinguishing himself as much by his erudition as by his strict observance of monastic discipline, he eventually became Abbot. From this moment his advance was rapid. His merit attracted the notice of Pope Eugenius III., by whom he was created Cardinal-Bishop of Alba in 1146, and who, two years later, sent him as papal legate to Denmark and Norway. Shortly after his return to Rome, Anastasius, the successor of Eugenius, died, and Nicholas Breakspeare was, in 1154, and much, it is said, against his inclination, unanimously chosen pope, assuming the title Adrian IV. On hearing of the election Henry II. sent the Abbot of St. Albans and three bishops to Rome to convey his congratulations, for which Pope Adrian, who as a boy trod the village street we are now approaching, expressed his appreciation by granting special privileges to the Abbey of St. Albans. Pope Adrian IV. died at the moment

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

A Glade on Chipperfield Common.

when he was about to pronounce the sentence of excommunication upon Frederick, Emperor of Germany, in 1159.

By this time we should have arrived at the village, which occupies a pleasant position on high, well-wooded ground. The square, embattled tower of St. Lawrence's Church soon rises into view. We enter, and find an interesting structure, parts of which date back as far as the 12th century. It consists of a nave, aisles, clerestory, and a chancel with south aisle, where the windows, differing from those in other parts of the Church, are in the Decorated style, the remainder being Perpendicular. Here in the nave are old brasses to Ralph Horwode and family, 1478, and Thomas Cogdell and his two wives, 1607. Amongst the monuments deserving of notice is that to Lord Chief Justice Raymond, who died in 1732. In one of the windows remains a fragment of old glass, representing St. Lawrence, the patron saint of the Church; and on the walls of the south chapel traces of old distemper paintings may be detected.

We may return to Watford by way of the village of Leavesden, which is an ecclesiastical parish formed from the parishes of St. Albans and Watford. A public footpath leaves the village and strikes through pretty country and a fine copse, to the St. Albans Road, where, turning to the right, another mile's walk brings us back once more to the heart of Watford town.

Photograph] [MR. A. W. ANDERSON.

Abbots Langley Church

(Showing the Norman Arches).

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

Maple Cross, Rickmansworth.

CHAPTER VI.

DESCRIBES CASSIOBURY, THE GROVE, SARRATT, RICKMANSWORTH. AND MOOR PARK.

ON the right-hand side of the Rickmansworth Road, a hundred yards or so from the fountain that marks the north-west extremity of Watford High-street, stand the entrance gates of Cassiobury Park. We will enter, and stroll through what was once the royal domain of the British King, Cassivelaunus.

As we survey the massive timber, the stretches of coarse, tangled grass, and catch distant glimpses

of the deer among the trees, we inspire something of the spirit of the place, and find it not at all difficult to realize that we are treading ground made sacred by traditions of our warlike British ancestors.

But at the same time Cassiobury has a less ancient claim upon our interest and regard, it having been the seat of the Essex family since 1661. The mansion, which we are now approaching, was originally built by Sir Richard Morrison, the friend of Ascham the learned tutor of Queen Elizabeth, and his son Charles, in the 16th century, and part of the north wing of the original structure remains. The estate passed to the Capel family through the marriage of Sir Arthur Capel with Elizabeth Morrison. Sir Arthur Capel, who lost his life in the service of Charles I.—being beheaded in Old Palace Yard on March 9th, 1649, as a consequence of his gallant defence of Colchester against the Roundhead General Fairfax—was created baron some years prior to his death, and his son, the second baron, was created Earl of Essex in 1661, and was at one time Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. However, in 1683 he took part in a conspiracy against Charles II., and was arrested at Cassiobury on a charge of being implicated in the Rye House Plot. He was committed to the Tower, where he took his own life on the first morning of the trial of Lord William Russell, one of the leading spirits in the conspiracy of which the Rye House Plot was but an off-shoot.

The first Earl of Essex (Capel line) had the house largely rebuilt from designs by Hugh May. Evelyn visited it in 1680, and refers to it in his diary as "a plain fabric, built by my friend Mr. May." It was again rebuilt by Wyatt for the fifth Earl of Essex, at the beginning of the 19th century, and it has been little altered in appearance since. The style is claimed by some to suggest the architecture of Windsor Castle —but that remains a matter of opinion. Anyhow, its many fine apartments arranged round an open courtyard, make an impressive and noble appearance.

The interior of the mansion, *which is shown only by special request*, contains four valuable libraries,

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES

Grove Mill Lane, Watford.

of which one is extensive, and the remaining three of smaller dimensions; but undoubtedly the pictures are the most precious of the objects that the mansion contains. These include the following portraits:—Arthur Lord Capel (beheaded in 1649) and his family, by C. Janssens; Charles II., by Lely; the fifth Earl of Essex and his sister, by Reynolds (the *frame* carved by Grinling Gibbons); the Countess of Ranelagh, by Kneller; Charlotte de la Tremouille, afterwards Countess of Derby, by Rubens; and "Moll Davis," an actress, by Lely. The remaining pictures, which are many, are principally portraits of different members of the Capel family.

Although the mansion may be viewed only by special permission, the Park, which was planted by Moses Cook, author of a work on "Forest Trees," published in 1675, and gardener to the first Earl of Essex, is graciously thrown open to the public, who are allowed to wander with few restrictions among the magnificent beeches, oaks, and elms, and other rarer trees, with which the pleasaunce is adorned. We will, therefore, strike across the sward towards the lock, passing picturesque herds of deer on our way. At the lock we watch for a while the operation whereby a gaily painted barge is admitted from the upper to the lower level of the canal. This, we think, is one of the prettiest as well as one of the most interesting spots in Cassiobury Park; and having gazed our fill upon the many attractive objects before us, the river and the canal, the lock, the lock-keeper's cottage, and the pleasant banks of the stream both to the north and south, we cross the stone bridge, pass through the "kissing gate," and find ourselves at the foot of a grassy slope called Jacott's Hill, which we cross by bearing to the right, and then proceed north-west until we strike the public road at Sparrow-pot Lodge.

We are now immediately opposite the extensive and lovely park called "The Grove," in the centre of which stands a fine old mansion of red brick, built in 1760 by one of the Villiers family. The building has been restored and a good deal altered; but within is still pre-

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

The Old Mill in Cassiobury Park.

served part of the splendid collection of pictures brought together by Edward Hyde, first Earl of Clarendon, including about one hundred portraits of celebrities by Vandyck, Lely, Janssens, Zucchero, Van Somer, Kneller, Gainsborough, and Wissing, as well as examples of Hogarth's genius, and a great many others. *The pictures may be viewed upon application.*

Leaving "The Grove" by the west entrance we bear to the left and continue our walk towards Sarratt. Opposite the gates by which we leave the park we notice a road bearing almost due west. This we take, passing through Cartpath Wood, and on to Chandler's Cross. Here, where the road takes a right-angled turn to the south, we find a footpath that will bring us across country to Micklefield Green, where we turn to the right, and passing through the tiny village, arrive ere long at Sarratt.

Sarratt, which derives its name from *Syrct*, meaning "a Saxon," is a delightful village, with a green, along which, on either side, are ranged numerous picturesque and quaint old cottages. Having gazed at these to our heart's content, we will make our way south-west to Sarratt Mill, where the River Chess enters the County of Hertfordshire from Buckingham. On the way we pass the Church of the Holy Cross, which is remarkable for more reasons than one.

Architecturally, it is unique in the County of Hertfordshire, possessing as it does a tower of early brickwork, with a quaint, saddle-back roof, the ridge of which runs north and south. The structure is partly Early English, and partly in the late Norman style, is cruciform, and is built of flint, with Totternhoe and Caen stone dressings. The most interesting of its internal features are a square aumbry, an Eastern sepulchre, an extremely ancient piscina, and a double sedilia. In the Jacobean pulpit Richard Baxter, the great divine, once preached—a fact which alone is sufficient to invest this small, sacred edifice with interest. Part of the churchyard was once a Roman cemetery, and some Roman tiles are still preserved.

Leaving the Church, and admiring as we go the

beauty of its situation, we proceed towards Sarratt Mill, where, crossing the bridge, we find almost immediately on our left hand a footpath that leads through the valley of the Chess, by Loudwater and through Rickmansworth Park, to Rickmansworth. Soon after leaving Sarratt Mill, we cross the public road to Chorley Wood, which village is sufficiently near to induce us to turn aside for a few minutes.

Photograph] [Mr. A. W. Anderson.

Sarratt Church (from the S.E.)

The staple industry of this hamlet, which has a station on the Metropolitan Railway near Amersham Road, is the making of hurdles ; but, it has a deeper claim upon our attention than that, for here, at King's Farm, an old, half-timbered house on high ground facing the church, and across the railway, was married William Penn, the celebrated Quaker. Christ Church, which is in the Early English style, dates back only to 1845, and was rebuilt as recently as 1870,

from designs by the late G. E. Street, R.A. Within is some fine painted glass.

Chorley Wood is a delightful centre for some pretty walks through the lovely valley of the Chess ; but we will leave them for the visitor to discover for himself, and will retake the path from which we turned aside to visit the hamlet, and continue our way through Rickmansworth Park towards Rickmansworth.

The name Rickmansworth is said to have been derived from *Rykemereswearth*, meaning "rich moor meadow." The manor was presented by Offa to the Abbots of St. Albans, by whom it was held until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Subsequently Edward VII. granted it to Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London. But Queen Elizabeth took possession of it, and it remained Crown property until Charles I. granted it to one Hewet in payment of a loan. Hewet sold it to Sir Thomas Fotherby. The market, originally granted by Henry III., has been discontinued for a number of years.

As we pass through the town to the High-street, we notice many a quaint house, and numbers of queer passages which tempt one to explore their old-world recesses. In the High-street we find Basing House, which was for several years the home of William Penn, the scene of whose marriage we have already visited, and whose remains lie buried in Jordan's burial ground, a few miles west of Rickmansworth, in Buckinghamshire.

The Parish Church of St. Mary is near the North Western Railway station ; and we find it to be an embattled structure of flint, with stone dressings, in the Perpendicular style. With the exception of the spire, which was erected in 1630, the edifice was, in 1826, rebuilt ; as it was again in 1890, at a cost of £5,500, raised by subscriptions, when the designs were drawn by Sir Arthur Blomfield. Within we find preserved some relics of a much earlier edifice, notably a brass to Thomas Day (1613) and his wives Alice and Joane, who died 1585 and 1598 respectively. The restored marble altar tomb of Sir Henry Cary, Baron of

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

High Street, Rickmansworth.

Leppington and Earl of Monmouth, who died in 1661, is worthy of examination; as also are the sedilia, piscina, and modern oak stalls in the chancel. The Vicarage, which is believed to be the oldest in Hertfordshire, dates in parts from the middle of the 15th century.

Leaving the Church on the right, passing the railway station, and crossing the Grand Junction Canal, we now bear to the left, and very soon find on the right-hand side of Moor Lane a public footpath which admits us to Moor Park, one of the most notable estates in England. As we follow the track towards Batchworth Heath we will revive some of the historical associations of the noble domain which we now are traversing.

Moor Park was first enclosed in 1426, by licence of Henry VI. In the following reign (Edward IV.) the manor was forfeited by its then owner, Ralph Boteler, to the Crown, but shortly afterwards was granted to George Nevil, Archbishop of York, and youngest son of Richard, Earl of Warwick. A house was built in which the prelate lived in great magnificence, occasionally entertaining the King, Edward IV., but the defection of his brother, the "King-maker," occasioned his own arrest on the charge of treason, and resulted in the confiscation of all his moveable property, which was valued at £20,000. Grief, occasioned by his misfortunes, hastened the unhappy Archbishop's death. Henry VII. granted Moor Park to his favourite general, John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who led, with so much success, the van of Henry's army at the Battle of Bosworth. Subsequently, Cardinal Wolsey held the property for a while, which came ultimately into the possession of James Fitzroy, Duke of Monmouth, son of Charles II. and Lucy Walters, and who was beheaded towards the close of the "merry monarch's" reign. The unfortunate duke built the existing mansion, which the Duchess of Monmouth sold, with the grounds, to a Mr. Styles, a gentleman who had succeeded in amassing a fortune by speculation in South Sea shares, and who spent

some £130,000 in altering and beautifying the residence and surrounding park, being assisted in his task by the architect Leoni.

During the 18th and 19th centuries the house underwent several alterations and received much embellishment, but it still remains, substantially, the structure evolved under the direction of Styles. As seen to-day it is a large and noble mansion of Portland stone, with a stately Corinthian portico which is remarkable for its lofty columns, which are no less than 50 feet in height. The large hall, which is a vast apartment, was decorated by Sir James Thornhill, with designs classical and mediaeval, and it is recorded that the artist was compelled to sue his patron for payment.

Though shorn of its two wings, which were demolished by Mr. T. B. Rous, owner of the estate towards the close of the 18th century, the mansion remains a fine and impressive structure, worthy of the splendid park in which it stands. Moor Park, which contains about 500 acres, is a beautiful domain. It is exceptionally wild, is densely wooded, and is very irregular in conformation. Some of the timber is superb; while the dales and dells, and vistas in which the deer may be seen grouped, are delightful to the artistic eye.

The present owner of Moor Park is Lord Ebury. *Permission is required to inspect the house and park;* the latter, however, is traversed by the public footpath we are now following, which brings us presently to Batchworth Heath, when we cross in an easterly direction to Clay Pit Lane. If we continue to bear to the left, a moderate walk will bring us back once more to Watford, and in its course we shall skirt the fringe of Oxhey Woods, reminding us that we must make an excursion to the hamlet of Oxhey and to Oxhey Place, which will be a later trip.

From Oxhey Woods as far as the Hamper Mills our homeward course lies through Sandy Lane, which gives way to Hamper Mill Lane, the termination of which is in the Bushey, or S.E. end of Watford High Street.

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

The Grove

Built in 1760 by one of the Villiers Family.

CHAPTER VII.

DESCRIBES THE COUNTRY TO THE NORTH-EAST OF THE TOWN:

Bricket Wood, Aldenham, Radlett, Elstree, Stanmore, Bentley Priory, and Bushey.

THE excursion we now propose to take will involve a fairly long walk; but the beauties and interests of the country through which we shall pass will more than recompense us for any uncommon exertion that may be imposed upon us. Making Bricket Wood our first objective, we leave Watford by way of Loates Lane, which runs more or less parallel with the Colne, until it merges into Munden Avenue, which we traverse, and then proceed to cross the southern portion of Munden Park to the Fox public-house, which stands at the southern extremity of both Bricket Wood and Bricket Wood Common.

Arrived in so lovely a region, where, in spring and summer, the woods are thickly carpeted with wild flowers, and the glades vocal with the song of birds, we have the choice of several roads and paths. Here is no village proper, the cottages being scattered irregularly about the borders of the wood and common; and we will suppose that after exploring as fancy leads us, we find ourselves ultimately at Bricket Wood Station, on the London and North-Western Branch line from Watford to St. Albans.

From the railway station we find our way easily to Drop Lane, down which we turn our steps, and, taking to a footpath, cross the Colne, and proceed due south

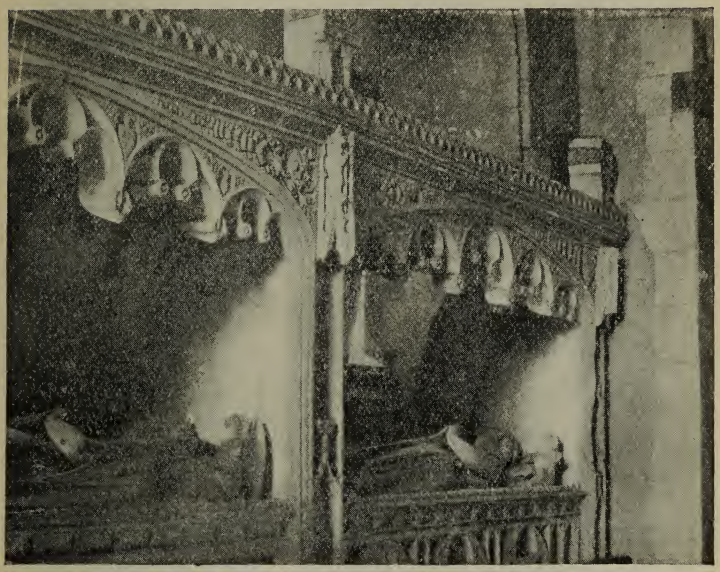
to Crab Lane. We now cross the grounds surrounding Aldenham Abbey, a residence built by George Thelluson, Esq., towards the end of the 18th century, and once known as Wall House. This fine old building is now the property of the Stuart family.

We continue on our way to Aldenham Church, which we approach after about a quarter of an hour's walk.

In the churchyard is an object of somewhat gruesome interest: the tombs of a man and a woman named Hutchinson, which, originally placed side by side, have been thrust apart and well-nigh destroyed by the growth of three sycamore trees, said to be at least one hundred years old, and to have been self-sown. The country people round about naturally offer a number of ingenious explanations of the strange phenomena, most of which are not a little uncomplimentary to the ashes of the defunct Hutchinsons below, and this notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Hutchinson, who died in 1697, built a residence in the parish known as Delrow House, and left an annual charge upon the estate of two pounds for the assistance of the poor.

The Church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Architecturally, it represents the style of several periods. It is in the main Perpendicular, but it is not difficult to trace much earlier portions. The tower—which is large, lofty, and embattled, has a stair turret at the north-west angle, and is crowned with a tapering, shingled spire—is remarkable inasmuch as its buttresses are constructed of fine *Herts plum-pudding stone*, a conglomerate mentioned in Chapter II. of this work. The painted oaken nave roof is very old, dating back at the least to the latter part of the 15th century, and one of its most noticeable features are the tie-beams, which bear angels carrying carved painted shields. Other objects of interest in the Church are the fine Crowmer monument, dating from about 1400, in the wall of the south chapel; the font of Purbeck marble, probably work of the 12th century; the parish chest, constructed from a solid piece of oak, over nine feet long; the triple sedilia in

the chancel; the brasses, of which there are several, the earliest dated 1450; and the two palimpsests in the vestry, one of which bears a mutilated inscription to a certain Long, an alderman of the City of London. Several of the brasses are to members of the Cary family. In the vestry hang prints of several of the



Photograph] [Mr. A. W. Anderson.

The Crowmer Monument, Aldenham Church.

lords of Aldenham Manor, which was originally given to the Abbots of St. Albans by one Wulfsinus, of whom nothing is now known. Shortly after the Norman Conquest, Aldenham Manor was leased to the Abbot of Westminster, one of the conditions of the lease being that the Abbot kept the woods clear of the robbers who at that time infested them.

Leaving the Church, which was restored in 1882 by Sir A. W. Blomfield, F.S.A., a couple of miles' walk in the direction of the north-east brings us to Radlett village, which has a railway station on the Midland line to St. Albans. Here we strike the main St. Albans Road, and turning to the south, a three mile walk brings us to the picturesque village of Elstree.

Elstree occupies a pleasant situation on the old Roman road, Watling Street—now the main thoroughfare from London to St. Albans—close to the Middlesex border. We are agreeably impressed by the beauty of the view towards St. Albans which we obtain from the north-east end of the village street.

Making our way to the Church of St. Nicholas, we find it to be a modern structure of brick and black flint in the Decorated style, dating from 1853. It consists of nave, aisles, and chancel, in which last there is a large five-light east window of painted glass, a memorial to the Rev. John Morris, D.D., erected by his pupils.

The original church, of which there are no remains but the 15th century font, was founded by the Benedictine monks of St. Albans, in the 14th century, and is believed to have been constructed of materials brought from *Sulloniacæ*, a Roman station which stood within a couple of miles of the present town of Edgware.

In the old churchyard, which has been closed for some years, was buried William Weare, an innkeeper, who earned unenviable fame, or rather infamy, by a career of crime, which included several murders and innumerable robberies. He himself met the end he had too often provided for others, being murdered by a former accomplice named Thurtell (a noted gambler and son of a Norwich alderman) at a spot called Gill's Hill, which is some two and a half miles from Elstree, towards the north-west, in 1823. Thurtell was tried, condemned, and hanged at Hertford. Few murders have excited such intense interest as did this. It was even dramatized, and the actual roan horse and yellow gig were used in the perfor-

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

Bushey Hall.

mances, which were watched with breathless attention by crowded audiences night after night. The crime even excited the interest of contemporary writers of the highest rank, Wordsworth, Carlyle, and Byron each making mention of it in their works.

The same churchyard contains the ashes of another notorious character, Martha Reay, sometime the mistress of the Earl of Sandwich. She, who had herself been no stranger to crime, met also with a violent end, being murdered as she was leaving Covent Garden Theatre one night in 1779, by the Rev. Mr. Hackman, who was hanged twelve days later at Tyburn.

Leaving Elstree we turn south-west towards Brockley Hill, which is the supposed site of the Roman station above mentioned, viz., *Sulloniacæ*. The enclosure, which may be entered by the gate in the lane to Stanmore, lies on the left-hand side of the road, close to the tenth milestone from London. Roman remains have been discovered at several places here about, the nearest being Pennywell, a short distance to the north. The Church does not possess sufficient interest to detain us, so we proceed down Wood Lane and make our way to Stanmore.

Stanmore is a pretty village on high ground (284 feet above sea level) with a station on a branch of the London and North-Western Railway from Harrow. The *old* Church, which stands close to the village, was built by Sir John Wostenholme, and consecrated by Bishop Laud in 1632. It is constructed of brick, and has a tower and porch designed by Nicholas Stone, who died in 1647, and was the chief English sculptor of his time, and to whom the De Vere and Villiers monuments are usually attributed. The ancient structure, which stands embowered in clinging ivy, contains some old monuments, amongst them one to Sir John Wostenholme, who died 1639.

The Church of St. John the Evangelist is a spacious stone building in the Decorated style, the foundation stone of which was laid by Queen Adelaide shortly

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

Stanmore Church, Old and New, in one Churchyard.

before her death, it being her last public appearance. The edifice consists of a nave with aisles, a chancel with a south aisle, a tower with an angle turret at the north-west corner, and a south porch. The east window, which is a memorial to Queen Adelaide, is by Willement.

In the vicinity of Stanmore large quantities of Roman remains have from time to time been discovered, including coins, rings, fibulae, and pottery.

From Stanmore a short walk to the north-west brings us to Bentley Priory, which stands in a pleasant park of considerable extent. Bentley Priory was one of the first religious houses to be suppressed by Henry VIII., and after passing through a number of hands it was, in 1788, purchased by the Marquis of Abercorn, who made extensive alterations in the grounds and rebuilt the house, employing Sir John Soane for that purpose. The Marquis had the residence fitted up with great magnificence, and proceeded to adorn it with many valuable paintings and other works of art. During the reign of George III., the Prince Regent visited Bentley Priory with the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia for the purpose of meeting Louis XVIII., ere he returned to France after staying at Hartwell.

The Priory was visited by Sir Walter Scott in 1807, where, while the guest of the Marquis of Abercorn, he corrected the proofs of his romantic poem, *Marmion*. Soon after the death of William IV., Queen Adelaide rented the Priory, which became henceforth her principal residence, and where she died in 1849. The estate was afterwards acquired by Sir John Kelk, and subsequently by F. K. Gordon, Esq.

Leaving Bentley Priory on our left we now jog on towards Watford, and arrive ere long at Bushey, which, originally a separate and distinct village, has now become a suburb of Watford. However, until we reach the bridge across the Colne, we are in Bushey proper.

On our left we presently see St. James's Church, which was partly rebuilt in 1871 by Sir Gilbert Scott.

It consists of a nave and aisles, a chancel, a noble tower crowned with a stair turret at the west end, and a well designed porch. Within the tower are hung eight bells, one of which has seen over six hundred years' service. The most ancient portion of the edifice is the chancel, in the Early English style ; but the east window is modern, having been inserted soon after the restoration of the Church. The tower presents two styles of architecture, the upper portion belonging to the Perpendicular, and the lower to the Early English period. The nave is old, but the aisles were added in 1871, the windows being designed in the late Decorated and Perpendicular styles, to be in keeping with the old windows of the nave.

In the vestry lie the ashes of Captain Silas Titus, notorious as the author of the pamphlet *Killing no Murder*. This gentleman, who died in 1667, made the plans for the attempted escape of Charles I. from Carisbrook Castle. He was apparently a man of bloodthirsty disposition, for not only did he write his pamphlet with the object of bringing about the assassination of Oliver Cromwell, but also suggested, at the Restoration, the disgusting act of exhuming and hanging in chains the bodies of the Protector and a number of the regicides.

The churchyard contains three monuments of much interest ; the first a headstone to the daughter of the notorious Silas Titus we have already spoken of, and the other a largish stone, upon which are carved a pallette and brushes, to the memory of Henry Edridge, A.R.A., who died in 1821 ; and beside it a slab marking the resting place of Thomas Hearne, the once celebrated artist and antiquary, and author of *Antiquities of Great Britain*, who died in 1817. Both the latter were erected by Dr. Munro, the physician of the Adelphi, a kindly friend to young artists. He also had the honour of being the early patron of Turner, Girtin, and William Hunt. Dr. Munro had a country residence at Bushey, and with him there were usually staying some young artists, sketching in the surrounding country, which as we have

Photograph] [William Coles.

Lululaund, the Home of Professor Herkomer.

by this time proved for ourselves, teems with subjects for brush and pencil. Bushey seems to be specially favoured by artists, for Professor Herkomer has a residence here, and in 1882 founded a School of Art.

CHAPTER VIII.

DESCRIBES OXHEY, PINNER, AND HARROW.

OXHEY covers an extensive area. The village is some three miles to the south of Watford Church, with a station on the London and North-Western main line; but as our intention is to walk as far as Harrow, visiting the principal objects of interest on our way, we proceed down Watford High Street, cross the Colne, but instead of passing under the railway, bear to the right, and take the second turning to the left after passing the Church. This short road breaks presently into two divergent tracks. We choose the right-hand path, and after covering about a mile of pleasant country, arrive at Oxhey Place.

Oxhey Place is the site of the old home of the Heydon family. Sir William Bucknall and the Hon. William Bucknall successively rebuilt the residence, the former in 1668, and the latter in 1799. A little to the east of the site of the ancient mansion stands the Chapel, built in 1612 by Sir James Altham—who died in 1617—on the foundations of an earlier structure. Within is a striking monument to Sir James, an effigy of the knight in judge's robes, kneeling between two pillars which support a canopy, while behind kneels an effigy of his wife; but the object of greatest interest is the 17th century reredos of carved oak. This remarkable piece of work—which is divided into three compartments by two heavy, twisted columns bearing Corinthian capitals supporting a frieze with cornice and pediment—occupies the whole of the east end of the Chapel.

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

Pinner Village and Church.

Returning to the path, we pass along a short stretch of roadway, and enter Oxhey Woods. There is beauty in all woods, but those of Oxhey have more than a common share. For the distance of a mile or so we tread a sylvan track ; and it is with regret that we presently emerge from the melodious and verdant glades into Potter Street. Another mile, and we are in Pinner, and in Middlesex.

Pinner in earlier days was a hamlet and chapelry of Harrow ; but even in olden times, before it was elevated into a parish of itself, it enjoyed the privilege of a market, which Edward III. granted to the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1336. Close to the railway station (Metropolitan line) we find the Parish Church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, a structure of flint and stone, with occasional patches of rough-cast, of cruciform shape, with an embattled west tower, very low transepts, and lofty tiled roofs. Notwithstanding the 14th century character of the edifice generally, we notice that the south aisle and transepts have lancets. There are some fragments of very old stained glass in one of the lancet windows ; and the most interesting object beside is a mural monument to a former minister of Pinner, by name John Day, who died in 1622. The monument bears an effigy of the deceased and a quaint inscription in verse. As we leave the ancient Church, which exhibits the work of many periods, having been built in 1321, and since then frequently added to, altered, and more or less modernized, we admire the fine Perpendicular tower, with its well-conceived turret rising boldly above the battlements at the north-west angle, crowned with a tiled roof of pyramidal shape.

We may profitably stroll about Pinner for a while, ere proceeding onward to the far more interesting town of Harrow, for there are yet several objects worthy of our attention. Near the railway station, for instance, we find the Commercial Travellers' Schools, which were founded in 1845. The present fine building of Gothic architecture was opened in 1855 by the Prince Consort. Additions were made in 1868,

whereby the Schools were made capable of accommodating 300 children. This excellent institution is supported principally by voluntary contributions, a good proportion of which are forthcoming from commercial travellers themselves in the following interesting manner. At the conclusion of what is known as the "commercial dinner" in all hotels which cater for that particular custom, a "penny" collection is made, the sum arising being divided, at the discretion of the chairman, between the Commercial Travellers' Benevolent Institution and the Schools above mentioned. The amounts so collected are entered up in books kept for that purpose, the money is deposited with the landlord of the hotel, and periodically forwarded to headquarters. When it is considered that in many of the commercial hotels as many as fifteen or twenty sit down to dinner five days in the week, and that the custom is general throughout the United Kingdom, it is easy to see that from this source alone the Schools derive a by no means inconsiderable portion of their yearly income.

Having passed down the main street, examining several old half-timbered houses which yet remain, we may visit Pinner Wood House and Pinner Park before leaving the neighbourhood. At the former Lord Lytton wrote *Eugene Aram*; the latter has a more ancient interest, for in 1383 the Abbot of Westminster was appointed its keeper. Subsequently Henry VIII. included it in a grant made to Sir Edward North; but not long afterwards it was disparked and turned into tillage, in which condition it remains. The present owners are the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital.

We will now take our way towards Harrow-on-the-Hill, the spire of whose church comes from time to time in sight, crowning the eminence the summit of which is 200 feet above the level of the sea; and as we go will briefly review the history of that ancient town.

Some doubt exists as to the origin of the name Harrow. In the Domesday Book we find it written *Herges*, which was probably derived from the Anglo-

Saxon *Hearh*, one form of which term signified a heathen temple. We must, however, go back to the time of King Offa of Mercia for the earliest mention of the place, it being referred to in a charter dated 767 A.D., in which it is denominated *Gumeninga Hearh* or the Temple of the Gumenings. This temple, which it is reasonable to conjecture was built in Roman times, most probably stood on the summit of the hill; and it is believed by archaeologists that, after serving as an Anglo-Saxon pagan temple, it was converted into a place of Christian worship.

The Manor of Harrow-on-the-Hill was originally the property of the Archbishops of Canterbury, who acquired it in Anglo-Saxon times. Cranmer was the last prelate to hold the manor, for in 1543 he exchanged it with Henry VIII. for other lands. Three years after Henry VIII. granted it to Sir Edward North (subsequently Lord North), in whose family it remained until 1630, in which year it was purchased by Edmund Phillips and George and William Pytts, from the two latter of whom the present owner traces descent.

We will now climb the hill to St. Mary's Church, which forms a conspicuous and picturesque landmark for miles around. It was founded by Archbishop Lanfranc during the reign of William the Conqueror, and was consecrated by Archbishop Anselm in January, 1094.

The most ancient portion of the edifice remaining is the lower part of the tower, which has a west doorway with round Norman arch and chevron mouldings; but there is a doubt whether it belongs to Lanfranc's time or is the work of the 12th century—which latter theory is generally deemed the most probable.

The two principal features of the Church date from the 15th century, viz., the familiar spire, and the noble roof. The clerestory and some other portions of the edifice also date from the 15th century.

A number of architectural styles are represented in the building: the aisles, clerestory, transepts, and stone porch, as well as the open timber roof, with its corbels decorated with upright figures of angels

with musical instruments, being Perpendicular; the nave piers, Early English; and the chancel, modern Decorated. The chancel was lengthened, and a north aisle added to it, by Sir Gilbert Scott, R.A., under whose direction the whole building was restored. The rough, circular font near the south door, which was replaced in the Church after standing for upwards of fifty years in the Vicarage garden, is believed to be 12th century work.

Among the memorials which the Church contains are some remarkable brasses, the chief of which are: a life-size effigy of Sir John Flambard in armour (1390); an effigy of John Byrked, rector of Harrow, under a canopy and wearing a cope (1468); Simon Marchford, a priest, also in a cope (1442); William Wightman, his wife and five children (1579); and two parts of a palimpsest brass (1574) suspended against the south wall, with some Flemish figures on the reverse side. But on the north side of the nave, against the wall, is one to which we pay special attention; it is that to John Lyon, "late of Preston in this parish, yeoman," who died on the 11th of October, 1592, and was the worthy founder of Harrow School, and of whom we shall learn something further presently.

Meanwhile, we emerge into the churchyard, which contains at least one tomb of very great interest, not on account of the person whose bones lie buried beneath—of whom, indeed, little is known beyond the fact that his name was Peachey—but because of its association with the poet Byron, who, when a boy at Harrow School, was wont to sit brooding so often and so long upon the monument, that it came at last to be called *Byron's Tomb.* Byron himself mentions it, and describes its situation, in a letter written by him to Mr. Murray on the 26th May, 1822, in which he says:—

"There is a spot in the churchyard, near the footpath, on the brow of the hill, looking towards Windsor, and a tomb under a large tree (bearing the name of Peachie or Peachey), where I used to sit for

hours and hours when a boy. This was my favourite spot."

In his lines, "On a Distant View of the Village and School of Harrow-on-the-Hill," the poet again refers to it:—

> "Again I behold where for hours I have ponder'd,
> As reclining, at eve, on yon tombstone I lay;
> Or round the steep brow of the churchyard I wander'd,
> To catch the last gleam of the sun's setting ray."

It is not surprising that this spot won the affection of the imaginative boy, for it commands a prospect lovely to a degree. Given a clear day, keen eyes or a telescope, it is remarkable what far distant objects may be seen. Windsor Castle is the principal feature in the view from *Byron's Tomb;* while from other parts of the hill, the obelisk in Ashridge Park, near Tring, the Langdon Hills in Essex, the Crystal Palace, the Kentish Downs and Knockholt Beeches, and Leith Hill Tower in Surrey, may be discerned; and in the south-east rise the gigantic legs of the uncompleted Wembley Tower.

Leaving the Church, we turn towards the south, and come almost immediately upon Harrow School, the world-wide fame of which more than warrants our indulgence in a brief review of its eminently interesting history.

The beginning of the last three decades of the 16th century found the village school of Harrow fallen into decay, a fact which was not lost upon a certain well-to-do yeoman of Preston (a hamlet of Harrow) by name John Lyon, who, in 1571, founded a new school to supersede the old. For twenty years John Lyon supervised the conduct of his school, and in 1590, he drew up plans for the guidance of his successors, neglecting no details, and declaring his wishes in particularly plain language. His statutes stated who should be eligible as scholars, what they were to be taught, decided the number of forms, what books were to be used, the school hours, the number and duration of holidays, and the mode of discipline. He

Photograph] [F. Downer & Sons.

Speech Day at Harrow.

also expressed his wishes in regard to the scholars' games, which were to be restricted to archery, running, play with a hand-ball, and top-spinning. All other sports were forbidden.

£300 was the sum John Lyon set aside for the erection of "a large and convenient school-house, *with a chimney in it*," and "meete and convenient rooms for the school-master and usher to inhabit and dwell in." The salary of the master was fixed at *£26 13s. 4d.* yearly, and that of the usher at *£13 6s. 8d.*; while each received an additional allowance of *£3 6s. 8d.* annually for fuel.

Four exhibitions, two of which were to Caius College, Cambridge, and the remainder to any Oxford College, absorbed £20 per annum; and the entire management was entrusted to six governors, whose disagreements were to be submitted to the Archbishop of Canterbury for settlement.

Such was the quaint beginning of Harrow School, which, from the humble condition of a village seminary has attained a foremost position among English seats of learning.

By this time we have reached the School Buildings. The original school-house, which was completed in 1615, now forms the west wing; it is a plain Elizabethan structure of old red-brick and stone, its only ornamentation being the lion, in honour of the founder. It is now devoted solely to scholastic uses, all the masters and boys being housed in the town.

The school-room, commonly called the "Fourth Form Room"—an apartment some 50 feet long by 21 feet wide—possesses great interest, the walls being scribbled over with old boys' names, many of which have since been graven on the scroll of fame.

No splendid tablets grace her simple hall,
But ruder records fill the dusky wall;
There, deeply carved, behold! each tyro's name
Secures its owner's academic fame;
Here mingling view the names of sire and son,
The one long graved, the other just begun:
These shall survive alike when son and sire
Beneath one common stroke of fate expire:

Perhaps their last memorial these alone,
Denied in death a monumental stone,
Whilst to the gale in mournful cadence wave
The sighing weeds that hide their nameless grave.
And here my name, and many an earlier friend's,
Along the wall in lengthen'd line extends.

Byron.

Within this old room, in earlier days, scholars and their friends were wont to foregather, when speeches were made and poems and essays recited ; but by the beginning of the last century the school had grown to such an extent that a new Speech Room became necessary. Thereupon, in 1819, during the mastership of Dr. George Butler, the east wing was added to the old building. This again was outgrown, and on the 2nd of July, 1874, the foundation stone of a new Speech Room was laid by the Duke of Abercorn.

The cost of this building, which we find opposite the School Chapel at the north end of the High Street, was defrayed out of the Lyon Memorial Fund, which was raised by the Old Harrovians in 1871. The hall is celebrated for its remarkably good acoustic properties.

The Chapel over the way was erected in 1854, on the foundation of the old School Chapel which was built in 1839, prior to which date the boys attended Harrow Church. Sir G. G. Scott, R.A., was the architect of the present building, which is a handsome stone structure in the 13th century French style. On account of its lofty apsidal chancel with crypt beneath, it is believed to have been modelled on the St. Chapelle in Paris. The lofty, graceful fleche is a memorial to the Rev. Wm. Oxenham—an under-master who won the affectionate esteem of the School—and was added in 1863.

The south aisle, and the south windows of painted glass are a memorial to twenty-one officers (old Harrovians) who fell in the Crimean War.

Close to the Chapel we observe the Vaughan Library, which was erected to commemorate the headmastership of Dr. Vaughan, Dean of Llandaff. Lord Palmerston, an old Harrovian, laid the foundation-stone on Speech Day, July 2nd, 1861, and the building

was opened two years later. Designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, in the Gothic style, this is an interesting structure of coloured bricks, with a fine interior well-appointed in every respect. In addition to the books there are some fine portraits of distinguished Harrovians, including those of Byron and Palmerston.

Close at hand on the east side of the hill are the Laboratories and Natural Science Schools, which were erected between 1874-5. Next the Laboratories we notice a large block of red brick buildings, consisting of school rooms and the Butler Museum. The school rooms occupy the ground floor, and the Museum the upper. Opened in 1886, the Museum was established to commemorate the head-mastership of Dr. H. M. Butler, and contains a valuable collection of Egyptian, Greek, and Roman antiquities, bequeathed by Sir J. Gardner-Wilkinson, an old Harrovian. Other exhibits include collections of coins, casts, minerals, birds, photographs, &c.

We have now reviewed the chief buildings of Harrow School. Among the scholars, poets, statesmen, and scientists, who received their early education at Harrow, and who include such notabilities as Sir William Jones, Samuel Parr, Sheridan, Peel, and Perceval, none held Harrow-on-the-Hill in more affectionate remembrance than did the poet Byron, as may be seen from his works, in which frequent mention is made of "Ida," as he loved to call the pleasant hill.

> IDA! blest spot, where Science holds her reign,
> How joyous once I joined thy youthful train!
> Bright in idea gleams thy lofty spire,—
>
> * * * *
>
> High through those elms, with hoary branches crown'd,
> Fair IDA'S bower adorns the landscape round;
> There Science, from her favour'd seat, surveys
> The vale where rural Nature claims her praise.

A short walk towards the north will now bring us to Wealdstone, whence we can take train direct to Watford, but two stations distant.

CHAPTER IX.

LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA.

WATFORD is an excellent centre for the botanist, for in addition to the rare specimens that are discoverable in the neighbourhood, the Herbarium of the Herts Natural History Society is here situated, containing several important botanical collections, including the collection of flowering plants made by the authors of the first *Flora* of the county, Messrs. Coleman and Webb (1849); that formed by Mr. Pryor, whose *Flora* was published by the Society in 1887; and several collections of cryptogamic plants.

The Herts Natural History Society's library is specially rich in botanical literature.

The general *Flora* of Hertfordshire is well represented in the neighbourhood of Watford; and the district has also the following rarer specimens to encourage the searches of field botanists.

Amongst the mosses, or *Muscineæ*: *Sphagnum paucifolia* are to be found in the Tunnel Woods near Watford; and *Campylopus pyriforme* occurs in Berry Grove Wood, Aldenham.

The rarer lichens, or *Lichenes*, are represented by *Calicium melanophæum*, which is not unfrequently found on fir trees in Bricket Wood; *Lecanora phlogina* in the Tunnel Woods, near Watford; and also *Pertusaria globulifera*, in the same neighbourhood.

Fungi are plentiful, and include a new species of *Hymenomycetes*, namely, the *Agaricus* (*Nolania*) *nigripes*, whose habitat is Aldenham Wood; the *Agaricus* (*Clytocyle*) *Sadleri* has been found in Cassiobury Park; and in Grove Park the very rare *Strombilomyces strombilaceus* has been observed.

Ferns are unfortunately scarce owing to the depredations of certain persons who have rooted them up unmercifully, and carried them off for sale in London.

Among the birds which frequent the area under review the heron is not unknown. Feathered visitors include the storm petrel, golden oriole, whooper swan, snow bunting, great spotted wood-pecker, black tern, great northern diver, herring gull, cormorant, tufted duck, hoopoe, cross-bill, sheldrake, Guillemot, Pallas buzzard, the little auk, and many others.

The lapwing increases noticeably. Finches are very numerous, excepting the gold-finch, which is becoming scarce, as are the jay, woodcock, and others.

The nightingale and the cuckoo are heard throughout the county ; and moorhens, coots, and dabchicks are abundant, as are also great, blue, and long-tailed titmice.

In referring to the *Entomology* of the Watford district, we must confine our few observations to the *Lepidoptera*, that being, without question, the most popular division of the science.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of the Watford entomologists, the *Lepidoptera* of the district has been very thoroughly investigated. Moreover, the field is a good one, for, to cite but one instance, of the 68 varieties of British *papilionidæ*, 50 have been observed or captured in Herts.

The *Macro-Lepidoptera* have received most attention. Among the rarities captured, or doubtless awaiting capture, we may mention *Orthosia suspecta*, *Plusia moneta*, *Miltochrista mimata*, *Acromycta ligustri*, *Triphæna prasina*, *Leucania turca*, *Cybosia mesomella*, *Palimpsestis or*, and *Orthosia aurago*.

In regard to the *Micro-Lepidoptera*, we will do no more than mention a few of the *Geometridæ* which have been secured, namely, *Metrocampa dolobraria*, *M. pulveraria*, *Euchlæna prunaria*, *Diastictis consortaria*, *Ectropis biundularia (crepuscularia)*, *E. luridata* (*extersaria*), *Leucophthalmia orbicularia*, and *Geometra papilionaria*.

In short, both the *Flora* and *Fauna* of the Watford district are of great interest, and, by reason of the close proximity of the area in question to the Metropolis, it forms a favourite hunting ground for London botanists and entomologists.

CHAPTER X.

THE SPORT OF THE DISTRICT.

MANY varieties of sport are indulged in round about Watford, for Hertfordshire generally still deserves its old reputation of a truly sporting county.

In this brief review of the Sport of the Watford District, precedence will be given to *Fox-hunting*.

The pack that hunts nearest to Watford is the Old Berkeley East, who have an extensive country, principally arable land, with many very large coverts. Although there is a great deal of shooting, and much game preserving and breeding, in the hunting area, foxes are no less plentiful now than they were in the old days. Perhaps the surest find is Bricket Wood, which has an extent of 800 acres; indeed, the Bricket Wood meet has always been a favourite with local huntsmen, with whom it has long been a proverbial saying that "when there are no foxes in Bricket, there are no devils in hell." Much of the country round Stanmore, Newberries, and Scratch Wood, and on one side of Bricket Wood, is good scenting grass, over which many a long hard gallop is enjoyed.

The nearest *Harriers* to Watford are the Aldenham pack, which is not a little famous in sporting circles. Its high reputation was earned during the mastership of Mr. Lionel Rickards, one of the editors of the *Harrier Stud Book*, and that of his successor, the Hon. C. Bampfylde, two gentlemen who brought the pack to such a high state of perfection that on several occasions hounds from the Aldenham Kennels have won the champion prize at the Peterborough Show.

Photograph] [WILLIAM COLES.

Finch's Avenue, Croxley Green, Watford.

In regard to *Shooting*, what is true of the whole county of Hertfordshire in general applies equally well to the country surrounding Watford—and that is, that nowhere is game more strictly preserved. This is undoubtedly owing to two causes, the rural character of the county, and its proximity to London, whereby a great demand for shootings has been created ; with the result that to-day there remains scarcely a farm or covert that is not preserved.

It will be imagined, from the many streams that intersect this south-west corner of Herts, that there is much good *Fishing*. That is true. And, indeed, so teeming is most of the water, that in Herts the only fish that is really prized is the trout, and, in a minor degree, the grayling. But, to catch trout in the Hertfordshire streams requires no small measure of skill, for so prolific is the water in insect life, that the fish, having so great abundance from which to select, have become very dainty in their feeding, and are therefore far more difficult to seduce with the artificial fly than are the denizens of mountain streams. Dry fly fishing is growing more and more popular, although the dry fly fisherman can hope to make a good basket in the Herts streams only when the trout are rising freely at the natural fly. Not only is the Gade one of the prettiest streams in the county, but it has also the best reputation for trout fishing, owing, no doubt, to the fact that its gravelly bed forms a favourable spawning ground. One of the best day's sport the Gade has ever supplied was undoubtedly June 1st, 1897, when the Hon. A. Holland-Hibbert, of Munden, caught between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. as many as 85 trout, of a total weight of 120lb. The flies that filled this splendid basket were the may-fly, the alder, and the sedge.

The fishing in the Colne is steadily improving, owing to care having been taken to reduce the pike, and the turning in of yearling and two-year-old trout.

Coarse fishing is good, one of the favourite spots being the Aldenham Reservoir, in addition to which

there are many other pieces of water available for anglers.

ATHLETICS.

The ground of the West Herts Club, situated in Cassio Road, is one of the prettiest and most attractive in the South of England.

Athletic Clubs and Sporting Associations are numerous, some of the principal being :—

The Watford Piscators, of which Mr. C. Spilman, The Woodbines, St. Albans Road, is the Honorary Secretary, the club headquarters being at the Malden Hotel.

The West Herts Golf Club, of which the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., is the President, and Mr. Howard Williams the Secretary, the headquarters being at the Club House, Cassiobury Park, where the Links are situated ; and the Bushey Hall Golf Club, with headquarters at The Hall, Bushey.

The West Herts Cricket Club, President, the Right Hon. the Earl of Essex ; chairman, the Right Hon. the Earl of Clarendon ; and the ground in Cashio Road.

Other Cricket Clubs are the Cannon Brewery, the Watford Brewery, and the Bruce Grove.

Football is represented by the West Herts Football Association, President, the Right Hon. the Earl of Clarendon ; the Watford Football Club ; and the Watford and District Schools' Football Association.

Hockey is played by the West Herts Hockey Club ; and Tennis by the West Herts Tennis Club, of which the Right Hon. the Earl of Essex is President ; and by the Watford Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

The Watford Amateur Swimming Club, which is affiliated to the M.C.A.S.A. and the Life Saving Society, holds an annual gala at the Five Arches, River Colne, where the practices take place.

Bicycle Clubs include the Watford Wheelers, whose headquarters are the George Hotel, High Street ;

and the Watford Cycling Club, which is run purely on social lines, and includes cricket, football, and billiards. The Malden Hotel is the headquarters of the last.

There are two Athletic Clubs, the Watford Athletic Club, headquarters, Queen's Arms Hotel, St. Albans Road ; and the Watford Gymnastic Club, the classes of which are held at the Friendly Societies' Hall in the High Street.

From the foregoing it will be seen that Sport and Recreation of all kinds are well patronized in and about Watford, and that many of the largest property owners take an active interest in the various clubs.

CHAPTER XI.

SUGGESTED ROUTES FOR CYCLISTS.

HERTFORDSHIRE is a delightful county for the cyclist. The roads on the whole are good, the hills are rarely dangerous, and there is so great a fund of interest, such a wealth of natural beauty, and so many attractions in the shape of ancient churches, drowsy villages, and fine estates, that it is not surprising to find Herts a favourite ground for the wheelman.

Watford forms a fine centre for the cyclist, who finds objects for numberless excursions north, south, east and west, of which the following are a few that may be recommended :—

St. Albans (Abbey and Roman remains), Redbourn (interesting church with famous rood screen and good brasses), Markyate Street (ancient house once a nunnery), Kensworth (interesting church with Norman remains and remarkable sculptures), Dunstable (town of intense antiquarian interests), and then by the Icknield Way to *Luton* (a town with unusual proportion of female inhabitants, and a most interesting church); distance in all about 24 miles.

St. Albans, Sandridge (church with Norman remains), Wheathampstead (ancient church, 1290), Kimpton (Early English church), King's Walden, and *Hitchin* (largest parish church in Herts ; many interesting features) : distance in all about 21 miles.

St. Albans, Hatfield (Hatfield House, seat of the Earls of Salisbury), Cole Green, Hertford (county town, ruins of old castle, fine timbered houses), and *Ware* (ancient church ; gave its name to the great bed famous in literature, and which is now preserved at Rye House) : distance in all about 20 miles.

Hunton Bridge (pretty village on River Gade and Grand Junction Canal), King's Langley (ruins of ancient palace and interesting church), Hemel Hempstead (fine Norman church), Boxmoor, *Berkhampstead* (Saxon and Norman remains), and *Tring* (interesting church): distance in all about 18 miles.

Other excursions may be taken east to Waltham Abbey and Epping, via Elstree, Chipping Barnet and Enfield; and west to Wendover or High Wycombe, &c. South, of course, lies the familiar Middlesex country.

LOCAL NOTANDA.

Local Newspapers.

The West Herts and Watford Observer. Friday, 1d. Chas. H. Peacock, 101, High Street, Watford.

The Herts Leader. Tuesday, ½d. Chas. H. Peacock, 101, High Street, Watford.

The Rickmansworth News. Tuesday, ½d. Chas. H. Peacock, 101, High Street, Watford.

The Watford and West Herts Post. Friday, 1d. J E. King, 42, High Street, Watford.

The Watford Record. Friday, ½d. T. C. Warren, Sutton Road, Watford.

Local Time-table.

A useful pocket Time-table is published monthly by Chas. H. Peacock, 101, High Street, Watford.

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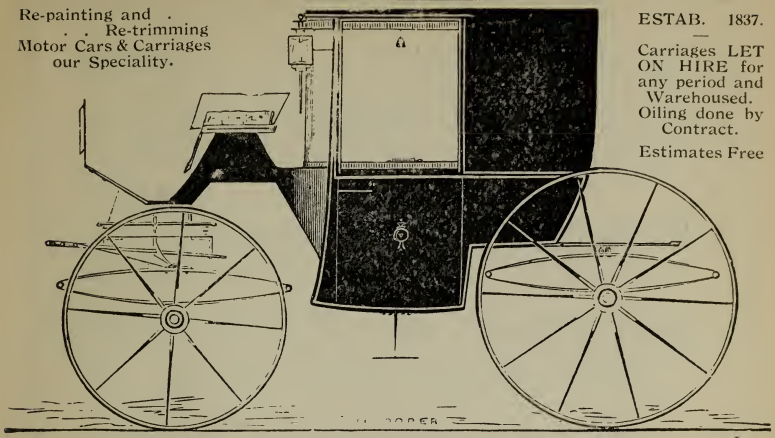

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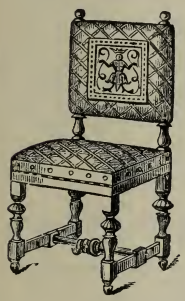

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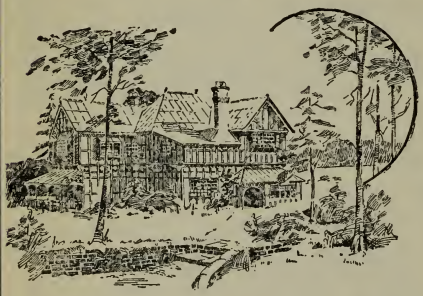

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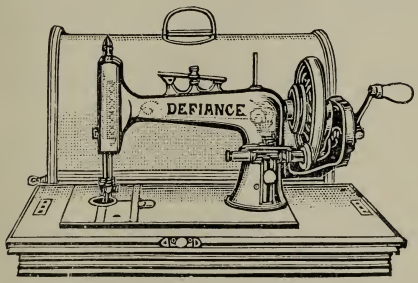

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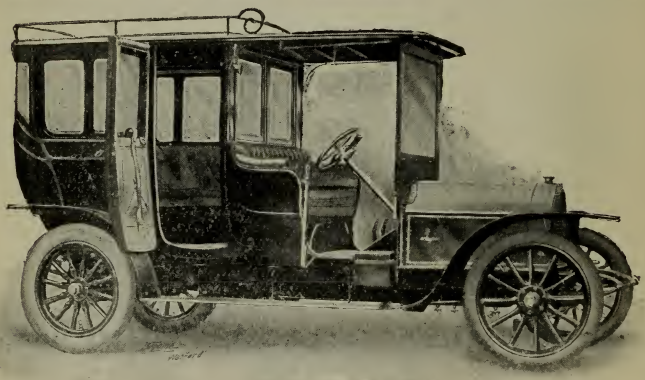

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